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Payyanur-Annur-Vellur road

* 857 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the Payyanur-Annur-Vellur road in Payyanur Firka, North Malabar; and

(*b*) when the construction of the road will be completed?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) About three-fourths of the work has been completed and further work relating to land acquisition is in progress.

" (*b*) The work is expected to be completed before 30th June 1955."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, for the last two years it has been said by the Government and officers that they want to acquire some lands in order to complete the road, but acquisition proceedings have not taken place with the result even the money spent for constructing a portion of the road becomes a waste as that portion is getting damaged. Will the Government take immediate action in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir. The Government are already taking drastic action regarding that road."

Coir industry

* 858 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any steps to encourage and help the Coir Industry in the West Coast; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Steps have been taken by the Government to encourage and help the Coir Industry on the West Coast on the following lines :—

(i) Running of Coir training school at Beypore in Malabar district;

(ii) A demonstration party in the South Kanara district moving from village to village explaining to the people up-to-date methods for dealing with different aspects of the industry;

(iii) Demonstration in the Amindivi and Laccadive groups of islands popularising the spinning of hard twist coir yarn by the use of Charkas; and

(iv) Constitution of a Coir Advisory Board to advise Government on the measures necessary for the development of the coir industry and expansion of the coir trade in this State. A scheme drawn up by this board for the Malabar district is under examination by the Director of Industries and Commerce and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies."

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SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that a huge sum of chopping tax is collected from people engaged in this industry and do Government consider giving up that tax for the protection of this industry?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, so many candidates are trained at the Beypore Centre. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any provision for future employment for these trainees who come out of the institution?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government do expect that all these trainees would be absorbed."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, it was stated that a Coir Advisory Board has been constituted. May I know who are the Members of this Board and what advice they have given to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About the members on the Board I would like to have notice. But I may tell the hon. Member that the Board is holding periodical meetings and is submitting its recommendations to the Government regarding the methods for improving this industry."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is want of market for coir products produced in Malabar and other regions, will the Government be pleased to find out markets in foreign countries through the Government of India?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think I answered a similar question even last year and said that the Government are looking into this question of providing more marketing facilities for this industry."

SRI O. KORAN :—" Sir, may I know whether the Collector of Malabar has sent any suggestions to start Coir Industry in Nattika firka as represented to him by the Nattika Relief Committee with an offer of Rs. 9,000 to start the industry?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the question is about the training schools. I would like to have notice about the other questions."

Co-operative Societies

* 859 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of co-operative societies registered so far in 1954; and